AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) For use in a telecommunications system having a source base station and a destination base station where a specified mobile station establishes a connection with the source base station, a method comprising:

upon receipt of a first measurement report from the specified mobile station which indicates a probability that the specified mobile station will engage in soft handover, initiating at the destination base station a preliminary portion of a handover sequence for the specified mobile station, the preliminary portion of the handover sequence including uplink radio synchronization with respect to the specified mobile station; and then subsequently

upon receipt of a second measurement report from the specified mobile station which confirms that it is time for actual soft handover to be performed for the specified mobile station, initiating at the destination base station another portion of a handover sequence for the specified mobile station;

wherein the first measurement report from the specified mobile station and the second measurement report from the specified mobile station include differing values of a signal quality measurement of a pilot signal from the destination base station as received by the specified mobile station.

2. (Currently Amended) For use in a telecommunications system having a source base station and a destination base station where a specified mobile station establishes a connection with the source base station, a method comprising:

upon receipt of a first measurement report from the specified mobile station which indicates a probability that the specified mobile station will engage in soft handover, initiating at the destination base station a preliminary portion of a handover sequence for the specified mobile station; and then subsequently

upon receipt of a second measurement report from the specified mobile station which confirms that it is time for actual soft handover to be performed for the specified

mobile station, initiating at the destination base station another portion of a handover sequence for the specified mobile station;

wherein the first measurement report from the specified mobile station and the second measurement report from the specified mobile station include differing values of a signal quality measurement of a pilot signal from the destination base station as received by the specified mobile station;

the preliminary portion of the handover sequence involving an operation between the destination base station and the specified mobile station that are more time critical than operations performed during the another portion of the handover sequence.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein upon receipt of the first measurement report from the specified mobile station, a control node allocates uplink resources for the specified mobile station to communicate with the destination base station.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the preliminary portion of the handover sequence comprises one or more of the following:

(1) sending an uplink setup request message from a control node to the destination base station;

(2) turning on a receiver at the destination base station to listen to the specified mobile station;

(3) performing uplink radio synchronization with respect to the specified mobile station and the destination base station; and,

(4) sending a mobile station detected message from the destination base station to the control node.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the another portion of the handover sequence comprises remaining events of a conventional handover sequence which were not included in the preliminary portion of the handover sequence.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the another portion of the handover sequence comprises one or more of the following:

(1) sending a downlink setup request message from a control node to the destination base station;

(2) performing a radio link setup operation at the destination base station for the specified mobile station;

(3) sending an active set update message from the control node to the specified mobile station;

(4) establishing a user data transfer connection between the control node and the destination base station;

(5) transferring user data between the control node and the destination base station;

(6) turning on a transmitter at the destination base station to transmit to the specified mobile station;

(7) performing a power ramping operation between the destination base station and the specified mobile station;

(8) performing a downlink synchronization operation between the destination base station and the specified mobile station;

(9) sending an active set update complete message from the control node to the uplink radio synchronization with respect to the specified mobile station and the destination base station;

(10) sending a mobile station detected message from the specified mobile station to the destination base station; and

(11) sending a radio link restore indication message from the destination base station to the control node.

9. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system comprising a control node and a destination base station, wherein:

the control node is configured to initiate at the destination base station, upon receipt of a first measurement report from the specified mobile station, a preliminary portion of a handover sequence for the specified mobile station, and then subsequently upon receipt of a second measurement report from the specified mobile station to initiate at the destination base station another portion of the handover sequence for the specified mobile station;

the first measurement report from the specified mobile station and the second measurement report from the specified mobile station including differing values of a signal quality measurement of a pilot signal from the destination base station as received by the specified mobile station;

the first measurement report indicating a probability that the specified mobile station will engage in soft handover and the second measurement report confirming that it is time for actual soft handover to be performed for the specified mobile station;

the destination base station, in performing the preliminary portion of the handover sequence, is configured to perform uplink radio synchronization with respect to the specified mobile station.

10. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system comprising a control node and a destination base station, characterized in that:

the control node is configured to initiate at the destination base station, upon receipt of a first measurement report from the specified mobile station, a preliminary portion of a handover sequence for the specified mobile station, and then subsequently upon receipt of a second measurement report from the specified mobile station to initiate at the destination base station another portion of the handover sequence for the specified mobile station;

the first measurement report from the specified mobile station and the second measurement report from the specified mobile station include differing values of a signal quality measurement of a pilot signal from the destination base station as received by the specified mobile station;

the first measurement report indicating a probability that the specified mobile station will engage in soft handover and the second measurement report confirming that it is time for actual soft handover to be performed for the specified mobile station;

the destination base station, in performing the preliminary portion of the handover sequence, is configured to perform operations which are more time critical than operations included in the another portion of the handover sequence.

11. (CANCELLED)

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 or claim 10, wherein upon receipt of the first measurement report from the specified mobile station, a control node is configured to allocate uplink resources for the specified mobile station to communicate with the destination base station.

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the preliminary portion of the handover sequence comprises one or more of the following:

(1) receiving at the destination base station an uplink setup request message sent from the control node;
(2) turning on a receiver at the destination base station to listen to the specified mobile station;
(3) performing uplink radio synchronization with respect to the specified mobile station and the destination base station; and,
(4) sending a mobile station detected message from the destination base station to the control node.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the another portion of the handover sequence comprises remaining events of a conventional handover sequence which were not included in the preliminary portion of the handover sequence.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the another portion of the handover sequence comprises one or more of the following:

(1) receiving from the destination base station a downlink setup request message sent from a control node;

(2) performing a radio link setup operation at the destination base station for the specified mobile station;

(3) sending an active set update message from the control node to the specified mobile station;

(4) establishing a user data transfer connection between the control node and the destination base station;

(5) transferring user data between the control node and the destination base station;

(6) turning on a transmitter at the destination base station to transmit to the specified mobile station;

(7) performing a power ramping operation between the destination base station and the specified mobile station;

(8) performing a downlink synchronization operation between the destination base station and the specified mobile station;

(9) sending an active set update complete message from the control node to the uplink radio synchronization with respect to the specified mobile station and the destination base station;

(10)sending a mobile station detected message from the specified mobile station to the destination base station; and

(11)sending a radio link restore indication message from the destination base station to the control node.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the control node is a radio network control (RNC) node of a radio access network.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the preliminary portion of the handover sequence comprises:

(1) sending an uplink setup request message from a control node to the destination base station;

(2) turning on a receiver at the destination base station to listen to the specified mobile station;

(3) performing uplink radio synchronization with respect to the specified mobile station and the destination base station; and,

(4) sending a mobile station detected message from the destination base station to the control node.

19. (Currently Amended) For use in a telecommunications system having a source base station and a destination base station where a specified mobile station establishes a connection with the source base station, a method comprising:

upon receipt of a first measurement report from the specified mobile station, initiating at the destination base station a preliminary portion of a handover sequence for the specified mobile station, the preliminary portion of the handover sequence including uplink radio synchronization with respect to the specified mobile station; and then subsequently

upon receipt of a second measurement report from the specified mobile station, initiating at the destination base station another portion of a handover sequence for the specified mobile station;

wherein the first measurement report from the specified mobile station and the second measurement report from the specified mobile station include differing values of a signal quality measurement of a pilot signal from the destination base station as received by the specified mobile station~~The method of claim 1 or claim 2~~,;

wherein the another portion of the handover sequence comprises:

(1) sending a downlink setup request message from a control node to the destination base station;

(2) performing a radio link setup operation at the destination base station for the specified mobile station;

(3) sending an active set update message from the control node to the specified mobile station;

(4) establishing a user data transfer connection between the control node and the destination base station;

(5) transferring user data between the control node and the destination base station;

(6) turning on a transmitter at the destination base station to transmit to the specified mobile station;

(7) performing a power ramping operation between the destination base station and the specified mobile station;

(8) performing a downlink synchronization operation between the destination base station and the specified mobile station;

(9) sending an active set update complete message from the control node to the uplink radio synchronization with respect to the specified mobile station and the destination base station;

(10) sending a mobile station detected message from the specified mobile station to the destination base station; and

(11) sending a radio link restore indication message from the destination base station to the control node.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the preliminary portion of the handover sequence comprises:

(1) receiving at the destination base station an uplink setup request message sent from the control node;

(2) turning on a receiver at the destination base station to listen to the specified mobile station;

(3) performing uplink radio synchronization with respect to the specified mobile station and the destination base station; and,

(4) sending a mobile station detected message from the destination base station to the control node.

21. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system comprising a control node and a destination base station, wherein:

the control node is configured to initiate at the destination base station, upon receipt of a first measurement report from the specified mobile station, a preliminary portion of a handover sequence for the specified mobile station, and then subsequently upon receipt of a second measurement report from the specified mobile station to initiate at the destination base station another portion of the handover sequence for the specified mobile station;

the first measurement report from the specified mobile station and the second measurement report from the specified mobile station including differing values of a signal quality measurement of a pilot signal from the destination base station as received by the specified mobile station;

the destination base station, in performing the preliminary portion of the handover sequence, is configured to perform uplink radio synchronization with respect to the specified mobile station~~The apparatus of claim 9 or claim 10,~~;

wherein the another portion of the handover sequence comprises:

(1) receiving from the destination base station a downlink setup request message sent from a control node;

(2) performing a radio link setup operation at the destination base station for the specified mobile station;

(3) sending an active set update message from the control node to the specified mobile station;

(4) establishing a user data transfer connection between the control node and the destination base station;

(5) transferring user data between the control node and the destination base station;

(6) turning on a transmitter at the destination base station to transmit to the specified mobile station;

(7) performing a power ramping operation between the destination base station and the specified mobile station;

(8) performing a downlink synchronization operation between the destination base station and the specified mobile station;

(9) sending an active set update complete message from the control node to the uplink radio synchronization with respect to the specified mobile station and the destination base station;

(10) sending a mobile station detected message from the specified mobile station to the destination base station; and

(11) sending a radio link restore indication message from the destination base station to the control node.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising:

upon receipt of the first measurement report from the specified mobile station, initiating at the destination base station the preliminary portion of the handover sequence for establishing a connection leg between the destination base station and the specified mobile station; and,

upon receipt of the second measurement report from the specified mobile station, initiating at the destination base station the another portion of the handover sequence for establishing the connection leg between the destination base station and the specified mobile station.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the control node is configured to initiate at the destination base station, upon receipt of the first measurement report from the specified mobile station, the preliminary portion of the handover sequence for establishing a connection leg between the destination base station and the specified mobile station, and then subsequently upon receipt of the second measurement report from the specified mobile station to initiate at the destination base station another portion of the handover sequence for establishing the connection leg between the destination base station and the specified mobile station.